

Amendments to the Claims:

All amendments and cancellations to the claims are made without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;  
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;  
at a device, opening a second connection to the server;  
selecting, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection; and  
communicating information via the active connection using the information exchange protocol established for the ~~active~~ first connection.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol using the first connection as the active connection prior to selecting the second connection as the active connection.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the second connection is opened prior to establishing the information exchange protocol.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 in which a single one of the connections is selected as the active connection.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which two or more connections are selected as the active connection.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the second connection includes a wireless connection.

7. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;  
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;  
at the device, opening a second connection to the server;  
selecting from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection;  
communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol, that was established for the first connection, using the active connection; and  
monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of [1,]  
transmittal rate, latency, and cost of transmittal; and  
reselecting the active connection to optimize the parameter.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the information is communicated in packets that include aggregated information for more than one application.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, 4, or 6 in which the information includes a command that is effected by a module on the server.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim [1] 8 in which ~~the information comprises an aggregation of information from applications~~, the extent of aggregation for each application in the packets that include aggregated information for more than one application is being dependent on an indicator of priority for information exchange associated with each application.

11. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;  
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;  
at the device, opening a second connection to the server;  
selecting, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection; and  
communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol, that was established for the first connection, using the active connection, the information comprising a command that causes the server to contact a remote system, receive a reply from the remote system, and effect a response without transmitting the reply to the device.

12-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising a processor and software configured to cause the processor to:  
open a first connection to a server;  
establish an information exchange protocol;  
open a second connection to a server;  
select from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection; and  
communicate information via the active connection using the information exchange protocol established for the first connection.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the processor is further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets includes aggregated information for different local applications.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

23. (previously presented) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

- open a first connection to a server;
- establish an information exchange protocol;
- open a second connection to a server;
- select from the connections, a connection to be an active connection; and
- communicate information via the active connection using the information exchange protocol established for the first connection.

24. (original) The article of claim 23 in which a single one of the connections is selected as the active connection.

25. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the instructions further cause the machine to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and  
reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

26. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the information is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets includes aggregated information for different local applications.

27. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the information includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

28. (previously presented) A system comprising:  
a device, a server, and communication links, in which the device is configured to:  
open a first connection to the server using one of the communication links;  
establish an information exchange protocol;  
open a second connection to the server using another of the communication links;  
select from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection;  
communicate information via the active connection using the information exchange protocol established for the first connection.

29. (original) The system of claim 28 in which at least one of the communication links includes a wireless communication link.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 28 in which the device is further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

31. (previously presented) The system of claim 28 in which the device is further configured to select, from the connections, a connection to be a passive connection.

32. (previously presented) The system of claim 31 in which the passive connection is maintained while at least some of the information is communicated using the active connection.

33. – 37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which the device detects its own geographic positions and compares its geographic position to the range of one of the connections.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the device retains outgoing information until reception is acknowledged.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39 in which the device monitors a buffer that retains outgoing information to determine whether to transmit additional outgoing information.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the device implements software-based application sockets to connect application input/output streams to the server.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 in which the parameter comprises transmittal rate.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 in which the parameter comprises latency.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 in which the parameter comprises cost of transmittal.

45. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;  
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;  
at a device, opening a second connection to the server;

selecting, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection and another connection to be a passive connection; and  
communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol, that was established for the first connection, using the active connection, while maintaining the passive connection.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45 in which the information is communicated in packets that include aggregated information for more than one application.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 45 in which the information comprises a command for a module on the server; and the method comprises effecting the command by contacting a remote server, receiving a reply from the remote server and effecting a response without transmitting the reply to the device.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 45 that comprises monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity.